



The Diablo Bee

May 2016

Newsletter of the Mount Diablo Bee Association, a non-profit 501-3(c) organization

Next Meeting: May 12, 7:00 pm @

The Pleasant Hill Community Center, Perera Pavillion.

320 Civic Center Drive, Pleasant Hill, CA

Bee Chat 7:00-7:15, Business/General Meeting 7:15-7:30, Program 7:30-8:30, Regional Focus Groups 8:30-9:30

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Judy Weatherly

We're half way through MDBA's 2016 year and it seems like we've just begun! What a great Spring Bee Workshop we had April 2 . . . thanks to Gary and Joan for once again opening their home and apiary to MDBA and to all of you who provided the demonstrations. We always appreciate when members step up to share their time and skills!

For those of you who bought packages, especially those of you who are new beekeepers, you should be having lots of fun watching the action of your hives. Hopefully, you have lots of capped brood and new generations of bees emerging. Be sure to set aside some afternoon time to enjoy the afternoon entertainment of orientation flights. Watching them fly in their figure eights in front and around the hive is delightful—much better than a noisy Blue Angels performance in my opinion. There should be lots of that happening as your colony grows and new foragers make their way into the outside world. It can sometimes be alarming to see all that activity in front of the hive. I remember as a new beekeeper getting worried the hive was being robbed. Thankfully, we had a mentor to reassure us that all was well and encouraged us to enjoy it!

The Board continues to work hard to keep MDBA one of the best bee associations in California. I have to once again sing praises to one of the best groups of people I've had the honor to work with, both the Board and the Membership. You are awesome and your Board is awesome. Without members volunteering their time, energy and skills we would not have the great association we have. If you'd like to get more involved in MDBA, please talk to one of the Board members.

There's still lots left of the year with wonderful speakers, Mini-Bee Workdays, the Randy Oliver workshop, the Honey Tasting and Gadget Sharing, and of course, our great end-of-the year BBQ celebration! Even though the year is half over, there's still so much to learn and enjoy with your MDBA beekeeping friends. See you at the meeting on May 12 th !

"The Earth laughs in flowers."
--Ralph Waldo Emerson



The Beauty of Pollination HD

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6DoClq5gPxU>



May Speaker: Mea McNeil "From Grassroots to Government: Who's Doing What for the Bees and How it can Matter"

Our May speaker is Mea McNeil. Mea is a Master Beekeeper and a journalist, writing for the American Bee Journal and Bee Culture Magazine. She is a contributor to the new edition of the seminal reference book *The Hive and the Honey Bee*. She serves on the board of the Honey and Pollination Center at the Mondavi Institute, UC Davis. She lives on a small organic farm with her husband and son. Mea wrote an extensive article interviewing a number of individuals about this topic in the December 2015 Bee Culture magazine. Those interviewed range from Eric Mussen UC Davis emeritus apiculturist to Neal Williams and many more. On June 20, 2014 President Obama sent out a memorandum directing every department of government to come up with a pollinator plan. Its goal is to reverse pollinator losses and help restore populations to healthy levels for the nation's struggling honey bees, native bees and Monarch butterflies. The plan envisions reducing honey bee loss to 15% in ten years and adding seven million acres of wildflower habitat by 2020. We are very fortunate to have McNeil present to our club.



April Speaker was Mike Stephanos

MAY FOCUS GROUPS

Oops! I got confused when I announced the Focus Groups for May. We're actually doing the "geographical" groups again in May. We thought it would be good to do the geographical groups again before we split into special interest groups in June.

The focus groups are a great way to get to know other beekeepers in your area and even hook-up with mentors that are close by. I'm sure there will be lots to talk about in the May groups as we all should have some pretty active hives by now. I know we've already had some interesting things happen in our hives. Let's talk to each other and learn together!

In June, we will break up into special interest focus groups. We have a couple of people who have stepped up to facilitate groups. One group will be forming to address the issue of city ordinances and permits related to beekeeping. Some areas still do not officially allow beekeeping. If you're interested in working on getting beekeeping legal throughout Contra Costa County and beyond, this would be the group to join in June. Also, Scott Jorgensen has offered to facilitate a group on Top Bar Hives, so if you have a Top Bar or are interested in Top Bar Hives, this is the group to sit in on in June.

We have some other ideas for groups, but we're really most interested in members stepping forward to identify areas of interest and to facilitate the Focus Groups. You don't have to be an expert, you just have to have an interest and be willing to keep the group on target. If you have an idea and would like to form a group, contact me, Judy Weatherly, at president@diablobees.org.

Membership Corner

New Dues Structure for 2017

The MDBA Board voted to make membership dues easier to manage and understand by offering individual memberships only starting in 2017. Dues will still be \$20 per person, but we will no longer let two people (couples) join for the price of one. (Students/4H age 18 and under will continue to have non-voting, free membership.)

Why the change? It is confusing to have two names on the roster under one membership; and it is not really fair to the couples and singles who join as individuals. Membership dues are the primary source of funding for our club's many activities. And what a lot of activity! For \$20 a year, members get Bee Day and the chance to order packages at a reduced rate, hands on workshops every month, focus groups and the mentor program, access to swarm collection opportunities, a well-stocked lending library, the monthly newsletter, a vote and a say in the club's governance, the opportunity to participate in community outreach and serve on the Board, and the year-end BBQ. These exclusive benefits are on top of all the other things the MDBA does for members and non-members alike: hosting monthly meetings with a knowledgeable speaker, providing an informative website and Facebook page, sharing the MDBA newsletter archive, and talking up bees at community events. This is great value for \$20 a year.

To all members, thank you for supporting the club with your dues, your time, and your involvement.

T-Shirt Orders

Some folks have not picked up the MDBA t-shirts they ordered. Please contact Janet Kaidantzis at vpmembership@diablobees.org to get your shirt.

--Janet Kaidantzis (Membership)

2016 Future Meetings and Programs

Some programs and speakers may be changed as the dates come nearer

May 12

From Grassroots to Government: Who's Doing What for the Bees and How It Can Matter - Mea McNeil

June 9

On Biologic Beekeeping and Husbandry - Scott Jorgensen

June 25 and 26

Beekeeping Workshop with Randy Oliver

July 14

Making Splits and Nucs; Overwintering- Doug Vincent

August 11

Honey Tasting and Beekeeper Gadget Sharing - Membership

August 15

Mini Bee Workday--Honey Extracting 10am-12pm @ Lois Kail's apiary

September 8

Bee Health - Claire Kremen

October 13

MDBA Member BBQ

There are no meetings in November and December.

May's Featured Plant(s)

Cotoneaster shrubs, *Cotoneaster* spp. Rose Family

Cotoneaster shrubs are popular landscaping choices for coastal California developers. Different cultivars of the shrub can be grown for living hedges or ground covers. The flowers are attractive to bees, and the bright red berries that form afterwards are attractive to birds. It is not uncommon that when the berries ferment and the birds get drunk, they fly into windows. These plants are not native to CA, but are well suited to growing here due to drought tolerance. In some places they are invasive because they propagate well and the deer don't eat them. Unirrigated cotoneaster plants usually bloom in May, and their bloom is one of my environmental cues that signals the definite end of the spring nectar flow. Cotoneasters are moderate nectar producers but often cover quite a bit of ground, providing a significant food source for the bees. Get ready for a nectar dearth in mid to late May and early June after this plant is done and the grasslands turn brown.



MDBA 2017 BOARD ELECTIONS

It's time to start thinking about MDBA elections again. As you all know, MDBA is an all-volunteer organization so membership involvement is crucial to keeping our group strong and meaningful.

We're especially looking for a new Newsletter Editor, as Scott is unable to continue for another year. He's been a great editor and will remain available to assist a new person in getting started in the position. He has developed a nice template to work from which will make the job much easier.

If you are interested in running for a Board position, I encourage you to talk with Board members, especially the person whose position you may be interested in running for. Board members can share their experience of being on the Board and can give you a sense of what the position entails.

Nominations will be taken in June and July. You can nominate yourself or be nominated by another member. All people nominated must be current MDBA members and will need to write a "Candidate's Statement" that will be published in the August newsletter.

Voting will occur in September and the results announced in the October newsletter.

May Hive Tips

Cycle out you oldest combs! -- Colonies are at or approaching their maximum sizes in May and there is a large workforce in the hive. At this time of strength, consider removing those combs which are the oldest and most used. Your colonies can make up for the lost comb, and you'll be removing contaminants from the hive, especially when you pull combs older than three years. Do you have a comb that, inexplicably, the bees aren't on? Cycle it! Some beekeepers just yank and replace them, others move the combs to the outside positions of the box so that they can be filled with honey before removal.

Consider Splitting-- Splitting your beehive into daughter colonies is a great way to make increase and hedge against winter losses. There are many recommendations to split every colony at least once per year as a form of Integrated Pest Management. This action performed as a swarm preventative measure keeps your bees in your boxes. Colonies are still populous in May, and some of the best splits are made in this month.

General tip: BIG COLONIES MAKE THE HONEY

Explore the Beehive!-- April is a wonderful month to be a bee in California. There is plenty of food and low stress on the bees. Fire up the smoker for a lengthier apiary session in which you can practice using your tools, identifying things in the hive (drones, pollen, disease, etc), and observing bee behavior. Take advantage of their friendly dispositions.

Take Notes! -- Dust off your notebook and start writing down what you see. Keeping good notes can help you troubleshoot any problems that may arise in the season. Record what is blooming, how the weather has been lately, conditions of the brood pattern, etc. The more that you record, the more that you will be able to see and understand.

Only Harvest Capped Honey!-- May continues honey harvesting season. This editor recommends leaving 30 pounds (say, a mostly full super) of honey on the colony at all times. When you are inspecting your beehive and choosing which frames of honey to harvest, only take those which have fully capped cells. If the honey isn't capped then the bees are still processing it. If the honey isn't capped then it is possible that there is too much water in the honey. Too much water means the possibility for the honey to ferment and spoil. Yuck!

Seek Information! -- There is a wealth of information for beginning beekeepers on the internet, but sometimes knowing where to look can be hard. For beginning beekeepers who want a thorough primer on keeping honey bees in contemporary America, the MDBA Board recommends reading the Beginner's Pages on Randy Oliver's website, www.scientificbeekeeping.com. Another good resource to browse is www.beesource.com which is an interactive forum for beekeeping questions. Give it a look!

May's Featured Plant(s) ... continued



Avocado Trees, *Persea* spp.

All those radio ads for California Avocados forget to mention that the trees are great nectar and pollen sources for pollinators! The heat of May helps open the flowers of this sub-tropical plant genus, and the honey from avocados is dark and sweet. If you are thinking of planting an avocado tree, remember two things 1. They grow to become HUGE and 2: They need another tree to cross-pollinate with in order to produce fruit

Having two trees is not a bad thing if you like eating avocados.

Member Education Corner -- Spraying for Zika and the Impact on our Bees

By Nancy Burke

I came across a compelling article this morning in the Bee Culture magazine. The article was about spraying for mosquitoes. With the upswing in Zika cases in the United States, it is probable that more spraying will be happening across the country as well as locally. This is an opportunity to educate your neighbors and the community in general about safety for the bees. Spraying is actually ineffective for mosquitoes instead killing many beneficial insects including honey bees and the mosquitoes develop a resistance to the chemicals. Chemical sprays are not the answer to the *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes. It is difficult to target the specific kind of mosquito that carries the Zika virus via spraying with chemicals.

The real problem may be with neighbors close by who chose to spray. That is where the education comes in. Many of us have community networking via the internet. This is a good time to get on your computer and let your community know the impact that spraying would have on the honey bees. Make your voice heard to Contra Costa County Vector Control as well. The more of us that voice our concerns; the more they will listen. Some other thoughts are to carry some mosquito dunks with you to give away to open minded individuals. If you know the spraying is coming and it is possible to move your hives; do it! If you can't, close and cover them; some sources suggest burlap soaked in water. Just know where the burlap came from. Provide water internally for the bees. Empty your water source for your bees and refill it after the spraying. Here are some important points to remember:

- Ask the agency to tell the beekeepers ahead of time: give your contact information when you call.
- Tell them where your bees are.
- Indoor rather than outdoor spraying.
- Time (pre-dawn, post-dusk) when bees are not flying.
- Wait for weather that bees don't like: low temps, high winds, rainy days
- Less toxic compounds: look on Clemson-pgs 3/4: <http://tinyurl.com/hgpn5la>
- Google your state extension, too!
- Ultra-low volume application.
- Ground applications rather than aerial.
- Sprays rather than dusts.
- Granules rather than sprays.
- Water soluble sprays rather than emulsifiable ones.
- Fine sprays rather than coarse.
- Avoid microencapsulated products that can be collected like pollen.

MDBA Mentor Program Information

If your bees are humming along and you're looking for advice on next steps, or something went wrong and you need some help – feel free to contact a mentor noted on the MDBA Membership Roster you recently received by email. Here are some simple guidelines for mentees and mentors:

Mentee

1. Read – Buy a book, borrow a book from a friend or the MDBA library, look at beekeeping websites, subscribe to a beekeeping magazine.
2. Attend a Mini Bee Workshop. Every Saturday following a General Meeting a mini bee workshop will be held for members to gather hands-on experience and ask questions in the field. Observing and working with other hives is an invaluable experience.
3. Learn the correct terms for everything in the hive. A mentor can help you better if you call things by the correct name.
4. Find a mentor that works for you. Every beekeeper has their own way of keeping bees. Find a mentor or mentors that work in a way that makes sense to you. 10 beekeepers will have 20 ways to do the same thing. Choose which way is right for you OR step outside the box and try something new.
5. Hold Harmless. Please remember we are all in this beekeeping adventure together. Mentors may make mistakes or not always have an answer for you. Be kind and respectful. You are ultimately responsible for your actions.

Mentor

1. Always respond to a call for help, even if you can't assist. Let the mentee know if you don't have the time or knowledge to help them at the moment. Refer them to another mentor or resource.
2. Encourage the mentee to read books and articles from a variety of standpoints. Let them know what works for you or other methods you've tried or heard of.
3. Be kind and respectful. You were once a beginner, too.

Here are some basic beekeeping publications in PDF form (great for downloading onto your computer or phone):
Fundamentals of California Beekeeping (PDF)
From: University of California, Division of Agricultural Sciences
http://www.beeguuild.org/CA_Beekeeping_V1.pdf

Beekeeping in California (PDF)
From: University of California Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources
http://www.beeguuild.org/CA_Beekeeping_V2.pdf

A Field Guide to Honeybees and Their Maladies (PDF)
From: Penn State Extension
<http://extension.psu.edu/publications/agrs-116/view>

Basic beekeeping books:

Beekeeping in Coastal California
By Jeremy Rose

First Lessons in Beekeeping
By Keith Delaplane

Top Bar Beekeeping
By Les Crowder and Heather Harrell

Top Bar Hive Beekeeping: Wisdom & Pleasure Combined
By Wyatt A. Mangum
The Backyard Beekeeper
By Kim Flottum

Natural Beekeeping
By Ross Conrad

The Practical Beekeeper: Beekeeping Naturally
By Michael Bush

...and a beekeeping magazine for beginners:

Bee Keeping: Your First Three Years
(magazine subscription)
From Bee Culture Magazine
<http://www.beeeculture.com/tag/beekeeping-your-first-three-years/>

This information is also available under "files" on the MDBA Facebook page and should be on the MDBA website soon. If you have any questions or answers, please contact Stacey Bauer at vicepresident@diablobees.org.

Our Opinions about Feeding Sugar Syrup Year-Round

--Judy Weatherly and Scott Jorgensen

There was discussion during Bee Chat in April about honey production and feeding your hives sugar syrup all year around. I got distracted and wasn't able to address it during Bee Chat, but wanted to give my opinion on the subject now. I also received feedback from members who were also in disagreement with the practice and upset that it had been presented.

There are a few reasons that feeding bees sugar year around is not "best practices" in beekeeping. Michael Bush has a nice commentary on bees and sugar, "Honey and real pollen are the proper food of bees. Sugar syrup has a much higher pH (6.0) than Honey (3.2 to 4.5) (Sugar is more alkali). Stating the same thing conversely, honey has a much lower pH than sugar syrup (Honey is more acidic). This affects the reproductive capability of virtually every brood disease in bees plus Nosema. The brood diseases all reproduce more at the pH of sugar (6.0) than at the pH of honey (~4.5). And this is not to mention that honey and real pollen are more nutritious than pollen substitute and sugar syrup. Artificial pollen substitute makes for short lived, unhealthy bees."

I personally avoid feeding sugar syrup as much as possible. In terms of increasing "honey" production, feeding sugar syrup doesn't produce honey, it produces frames of sugar. Though it isn't the best food for bees, if you want to produce it and eat it, that's your choice. However, I encourage anyone who is selling honey to the public to be very careful and thoughtful about feeding your bees sugar once you have a honey super on your hive. If your "honey" were ever tested, it would not be considered honey by any inspector. I see this as not only an ethical issue, but one that could have consequences for all of us backyard beekeepers. Please research bee health and nutrition to get a better understanding of what bees need.

--Judy

However, if you are a new beekeeper who has started with a package, it is very much in your interest to make sure that your bees do not starve to death. This means that they need nutrition to get through the trials of starting anew, and that is where we can help them through feeding pollen patties and sugar syrup to ensure brood nutrition. Pollen patties should be used starting in mid to late summer, when our pollen dearth comes. It is my firm opinion that packages of bees should not be used to produce honey because of the psychological and nutritional stresses that harvesting puts on the bees. If your colony survives its first year and you did not harvest the honey, then they will be so much stronger (and better producers) in the next year.

Colonies that make it to their second years rarely NEED sugar feeding because they have a entire nest of storage space to hold nectar during times of plenty. As long as we keep an eye on how much comb that they have relative to their honey stores, we can really limit our feeding regimen. That translates into less work and expense for backyard beekeeping.

--Scott

Usage and Care of MDBA Extraction Equipment--Wisdom from our Secretary

How exciting! You have gotten your first hive, the first sighting of the queen, the first brood frame and now, a year later, – the first honey harvest. What do you do now?

An extractor (spinner) is basically a centrifuge that spins out the honey after the wax caps have been removed. Because the extractor and associated tools are expensive, a lot of hobby beekeepers can't afford and/or justify the expense to own an extractor for their 'honey house'. So MDBA has three extractors for member rentals. But also because it is expensive equipment some rules and guidelines are necessary for the continued smooth operation for the next member usage.

When transporting the extractor make certain that it doesn't 'roll around'. Damage to the motor mounts and honey gate valve will occur. It is best if the extractor can be moved in an upright position and strapped in but if it must be moved on its side, be sure to have the gate valve 'on top' so that it isn't broken that the weight of the extractor.

These extractors were not designed to be 'mobile' – but rather to be bolted to a cement floor in the honey house. Consequently compromises have been made – primarily one of stability. Although they are mounted on a wooden platform, it would be helpful if you have some cement block or heavy stones to put on the plywood platform. During extraction, leaning on the extractor is also beneficial (be careful of the plastic lid – it can't support much weight!).

Prepare each extractor to accommodate your size of honey frames. The 6 medium frame radial extractor can be adapted to accept 3 deep frames while the 8 frame extractor needs to be adapted for medium frames (otherwise, it will accept 4 deep frames). Connect the rheostats (speed controls) to the motors and you are ready to concentrate on preparing the honey frames.

The hot uncapping knife blade is used to slice off the wax caps that the bees have put over each individual honey cell. The blade is long enough to span the distance between the sides of the frame so let the blade 'ride' on the frame's sides as you remove the caps. Be aware that the hot uncapping knife does not have an 'off' switch other than to be unplugged. When plugged in, the blade is HOT and will uncapping the honey cells beautifully but also can burn fingers that get in the way. It can also melt through the plastic uncapping tubs. So be cautious.

The uncapping tubs come with a wooden bar to fit across the top so that you can balance a honey frame on it to leave your hands free to operate the hot knife and hold the frame. Let the cappings fall into the tub where the honey can drain to be added to your harvest. For the areas that the uncapping knife can't 'reach', use the scratcher fork to do that manually. Now you are ready to place the uncapped honey frames into the extractor.

It is best to have the 'top' of each frame placed towards the outside of the extractor basket. Please be aware of the individual weight of each frame and try to place like-weight frames opposite one another in the extractor basket. The better that the basket is balanced, the better the extraction will happen. When the extractor basket is full, close the lid and begin spinning at a slow speed – you don't want to start at full speed, you might 'blow out' the foundation from the frame because of the force and weight of the honey. As honey spins out of the frames, you can increase the rotation speeds. If your honey is warm, it should spin out in 5-8 minutes. A quick way to check if honey is still spinning out is to take a flashlight and shine down the outside edge of the extractor interior (after returning to a slow speed). If you see droplets of honey moving to the sides of the extractor, you need to have more extracting time. You will also know from the light weight of the frames when you take them out – if they are empty or not.

Don't let the level of honey in the extractor floor reach the bottom of the basket. It causes the motor to work 'too hard' and slows everything down. Open the gate valve at the bottom of the extractor and have it draining into your harvest container (usually a food grade five gallon bucket with a filter of some sort) as soon as the first frames are spinning.

When you are finished, clean all of the extraction equipment. Honey is very water soluble so rinsing with warm water is all that is necessary. You might have to scrap a bit of wax from the extractor basket but it won't take much effort. There is no need to take the extractor apart to clean it. In fact, please don't take the extractor apart – too many pieces get lost and broken that way.

Congratulations – your first honey harvest is done. Enjoy the sweetness and labor of your 'ladies'.

Rent an MDBA Spinner by calling either:
Lois Kail 925 356 2602 (lois.kail@gmail.com) or
LeoTscharner 925 838 5600 (leotscharner@comcast.net)

Community Education Corner

The MDBA Community Education volunteers were out in force in Contra Costa County in April.

On Saturday April 9th, honeybees and volunteers Ann Moser, Marjorie Cook, Nancy Burke & Judy Weatherly engaged visitors at the Rodgers Ranch Plant Expo.

On Friday the 15th, at Rossmoor's first-ever Earth Day celebration, Samantha Heller, Marianne Polkowski-Burns, Marjorie Cook, Ralph Carter & Carmelita Palma helped Rossmoor residents interpret bee behavior at the observation hive.

On the 18th, Jan taught several Kinder classes at Baldwin Elementary about the wonders of honeybees.

On the 19th, Ellen Walters and Jan taught honeybee Ed classes at Parkmead Elementary to four 1st grades-- and were rewarded with an exuberant rendition of a song whose words "Head & Shoulders, Knees & Toes" were changed to "Head and Thorax, Abdomen, ABDOMEN!" complete with appropriate arm motions and big smiles. Every child knew the correct names of the honeybee's body!

On the 20th, it was Earth Day at two junior colleges: Stacey Bauer & Janet Kaidantzis took bees to DVC and Russ Kettering & Jan took an observation hive to Los Medanos.

On Saturday the 26th, a presentation on beekeeping basics was made by Jan, Ralph & Carmelita to an interested group at the Walnut Creek Library.

There are many upcoming events in May that need volunteers, so stay tuned for information. Our community LOVES the MDBA volunteers and the bees, so take advantage of that love and join us! Questions? Ask Jan or any of the Comm Ed volunteers!

--Jan Pinkerton Spieth



READ A BOOK!

Have you ever used the club's AMAZING library to further your beekeeping curiosity?

Some of the most valuable beekeeping lessons occur outside of the apiary and within pages of writing.

Barbara Vigil and Russ Kettering maintain our books and would be very happy to direct you towards more information. Members in good standing are invited to check out books for one month per check-out. Remember to bring a \$40 deposit in order to check out books (sorry, we've had bad experiences in the past).

Here's a link to a fun/new non-technical book about bees from the University of Minnesota
<http://www.upress.umn.edu/book-division/books/if-bees-are-few>

An anthology of 2,500 years of poetry, from Sappho to Sherman Alexie, humming with bees, at a moment when the beloved honey makers and pollinators are in danger of disappearing

Virgil wrote of bees, as did Shakespeare, Burns, Coleridge, Emerson, and Whitman, among many others. Amid the crisis befalling bees—hives collapsing, wild species disappearing—the poems collected here speak with a quiet urgency of a world lost if bees were to fall silent.

Hover your mouse over the bars to find the number of MDBA members in your city ordered alphabetically.

THANK YOU, MARELLA HONEY BEES!

What a raffle we had at the April meeting! MarElla outdid themselves with their donation of bees and beekeeping equipment—that's right, bees! Not only was their selection of equipment great, but they also donated a nuc as a raffle item!

We are grateful to have a local beekeeping supply store available nearby and appreciate the membership and the generosity of Marcin and; Elzbieta to MDBA. Thank you so much for being a part of MDBA!

MDBA Randy Oliver Workshop June 25th and 26th

MDBA is excited to present a workshop by Randy Oliver. Randy started keeping bees as a hobbyist in 1966 and went on to get university degrees in biological sciences specializing in entomology. In 1980 he began to build a migratory beekeeping operation in California and currently runs about 1000 hives with his two sons. Through his scientific background and practical experience, Randy offers accurate information to beekeepers through his website, speaking at conventions and writing articles for various bee journals. His website is a major resource to beekeepers in California and beyond; his website link is www.scientificbeekeeping.com.



Randy will lead a two day workshop on Saturday June 25th and Sunday June 26th. On Saturday Randy will be doing a six hour lecture at the Church of the Resurrection Community Room in Pleasant Hill. The fee for the lecture will be 40.00 for MDBA members which includes a box lunch and 50.00 for non-members.

On Sunday Randy will do two three hour workshops for intermediate to advanced beekeepers who have minimum of three years or more beekeeping experience. Attendees must be MDBA members. As we are anticipating great interest in these workshops, the board will be using a lottery system to fill the workshops. The workshops will be held at Gary Lawrence's apiary in Pleasant Hill. The three hour workshop will cost \$40.00 and will not include lunch.

Please go to: https://gallery.mailchimp.com/3d3a91c53f6a42390e5d14146/files/REGISTRATION_FORM.01.pdf to print a copy of the registration form. You can mail the form to MDBA or bring it to the April and May meetings. We are very excited about Randy coming to share his wealth of experience and knowledge with our club and hope you are too!

BEE AUDACIOUS!

Presented by beekeepers in Marin County (and beyond) with Planetnetwork as a fiscal sponsor.

Please help us get the word out about "Audacious Visions for the Future of Bees and Beekeeping", or Bee Audacious for short!

You may have seen Mark Winston's editorial in the April 2015 Bee Culture magazine. He finished it up by suggesting that conference planners include a session at their next conference "Audacious Ideas for the Future of Beekeeping". Beekeepers in Marin County, California, thought it was a great idea! But why just a session? Why not a whole conference? So we're working to get some of the best bee minds on the planet together for a working conference December 11-13, 2016. Be part of the solution and help us make this bee think tank happen!

Your financial support is very much needed to help make this all possible. Buy a t-shirt or make a donation to support conference expenses, including leader travel and accommodations, AV for panel discussion, post conference writings and more. The current booster.com campaign will run until May 15, 2016. Click here to order a t-shirt now: <http://www.booster.com/beeaudacious3>. Or go to: <http://www.beeaudacious.com/index.php/the-fundraising/> and click on the word "donations" to download the form to make a donation in any amount.

Mark your calendars for the panel discussion that will be live streamed at 7:00 pm PST on December 14, 2016 and available through <http://www.beeaudacious.com>. (If you can make it to San Rafael, CA, you can see it in person at Dominican University of California.) The ten conference Thought Leaders (Tom Seeley, Marla Spivak, Mark Winston, Jim Frazier, William Klett, Stephen Martin, Heather Mattila, Chas Mraz, Francis Ratnieks, and Neal Williams) will be presenting the ideas generated by the two-day gathering.

Feeling audacious? Half of the 90 participants will be selected from submitted registration applications. Seeking constructive, collaborative and thoughtful people who will bring experience from a wide variety of fields that produce impacts on pollinators and how pollinators are viewed by the general public. Applications available at: <http://beeaudacious.com/index.php/conference>.

The Vision:

These aren't normal times for bees. The conventional wisdom about how to keep bees and encourage wild pollinator diversity and abundance no longer serves beekeepers, farmers or the critical societal imperative for environmental sustainability. It's time for bold new ideas that recognize beekeepers as stewards of both managed and wild bees, promoters of healthy environments, and managers of economically sustainable apiaries.

The Conference:

The Bee Audacious Conference will present a timely and unique opportunity for in-depth dialogue on the latest ideas, research, and technology to advance survival of honeybee colonies, beekeeping, and wild bees.

The Conference will be a thought-provoking gathering unlike any other conference. From December 11 to 13, guided by methodology used by the Simon Fraser University Center for Dialogue and Thomas Seeley's article "Five Habits of Highly Effective Hives," the critical social, economic, and environmental issues that are impacting the survival of bees and pollination will be explored. Ten experts (Tom Seeley, Marla Spivak, Mark Winston, Jim Frazier, William Klett, Stephen Martin, Heather Mattila, Chas Mraz, Francis Ratnieks, and Neal Williams) will be engaged as Thought Leaders in a format led by Dr. Mark Winston, Professor and Senior Fellow at Simon Fraser University's Centre for Dialogue.

The Thought Leaders will facilitate discussion between ninety individuals divided into nine working groups in active dialogue, using an agenda developed in advance by the participants themselves. The Thought Leaders will recommend 45 individuals for participation. The other 45 participants will be selected from Conference registration applications.

After two days of high-level collaboration, the Thought Leaders will present the findings at a Panel Discussion held at Dominican University of California on December 14. The Panel will be open to the general public, live-streamed and posted to the <http://www.beeaudacious.com> website. Dr. Mark Winston will write the Proceedings for future posting to the website.

BEE AUDACIOUS! ... continued

The Outputs:

The panel discussion with thought leaders immediately following the meeting will be webcast, and available subsequently on our website, allowing an online portal for dissemination of the meeting's outcomes and global access to the conference's ideas.

Participants – including many published authors - will be encouraged to write about all aspects of the conference. Additionally, Mark Winston, award winning author of "Bee Time: Lessons from the Hive," will produce a readable and comprehensive post conference report that will be freely available online. We have engaged an experienced research assistant to coordinate note taking and summarize the extensive notes from breakout groups, insuring that all the conversations are included as part of the conference outcomes.

Participants have regional and international influence and are the perfect conduit to disseminate information from the conference and work towards implementation of ideas generated. Conference sessions will be devoted to addressing how those attending can carry the conference's outcomes back to their home communities.

Conference Details:

Main Conference: 12/11/16 – 12/13/16, Marconi Conference Center, Marshall, California

Panel Discussion: 12/14/16, 7:00pm, Dominican University of California, San Rafael

Website address: <http://www.beeaudacious.com>

For more information, contact:
Bonnie Morse, Project Manager
info@beeaudacious.com
tel: 415-250-9720

UC Davis Bee Symposium: Keeping Bees



Healthy

Saturday May 7, 2015. 8:00 am-6:00 pm
UC Davis Conference Center
550 Alumni Lane
General Admission \$80, Students \$20

<https://registration.ucdavis.edu/Item/Details/231>

Editor's Corner



Just this: water your gardens.
--Scott Jorgensen

The Diablo Bee Classifieds

WANTED

Cappings Requested

If you have unwanted cappings I will melt and clean them for the beeswax.

AND: Bee Suit Repairs

Please contact Lois Kail

lois.kail@gmail.com or 925.356.2602

WANTED: Help in the kitchen before and after the monthly meetings! We are a volunteer-run organization.

WANTED: OUR OLD CLUB BANNER

If you know where it is please contact

Lois Kail at lois.kail@gmail.com or 925.356.2602

T-Shirt Swap

I have a Medium Indigo Blue shirt I would like to trade for a Royal Blue, preferably Medium.

Susan Ross

Rubysumoon@comcast.net

(510) 919-3440

FOR RENT

The MDBA honey extractors (electric)

\$10 for 1st day and \$5 for days 2-5

\$10 per day thereafter

For Concord area contact Lois Kail 925.356.2602

lois.kail@gmail.com

For Alamo area contact Leo Tschärner 925.838.5600

leotscharner@comcast.net

FOR SALE

Grafted Queen Cells from a cell builder colony (my best stock)

Cells available in May. Pick-up only, in Livermore.

\$10/cell, Place order ASAP so that know when to make the next batch

My operation uses organic miticides and IPM only

Contact Scott Ball

925.997.0336 or 66gtsball@gmail.com

FOR SALE

4-deep Hand Crank Honey Extractor

\$250, very good condition

Contact Margarito Leon

925.395.3776

FOR SALE

Extractor 18/9 Frame For Sale.

Used Once in Concord \$1,000.00.

Viktor Yusupov 415 706-1843

FOR SALE

BEESWAX

Lemon-yellow, candle grade

\$7/lb or \$6/lb if 20lbs or more

Bill Cervanka, Cervanka Apiaries

650.365.5548 or billcervanka@comcast.net

FOR YOUR CURIOSITY

Steve Etheridge and Leo Tschärner have offered instructions on how to make your own bee vacuum.

Follow up with them at the meetings if this interests you.

FOR SALE

Approx. 500 back issues of American Bee Journal and Bee Culture

FREE (but you have to come to my house to get them)

Contact Major Branzel

707.643.9433

FOR SALE

Hercules Bees

Top Bar Beehives and Top Bar NUCS

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MarElla Honey B's

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Authorized Dealer on Mann Lake Ltd. Supplies!

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<http://www.marellahoneybs.com/Bees-for-sale---2016.html>

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Bee Happy Solutions

Honey Bee Attractant/Swarm Attractant

Great for marking bait hives.

Many local testimonials

\$22 for a 0.5 oz bottle

415.272.0596 or beehappysolutions@gmail.com

To Submit Articles or Classified Ads

Have you got something to share about bees?

Contact Scott Jorgensen at newsletter.mdba@gmail.com

Deadline for submission is the 25th of each month